

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A method for diagnosing, ~~monitoring~~, or predicting preeclampsia in a pregnant woman, the method comprising the steps of:

(i) quantitatively determining the amount of ~~one or more~~ mRNA species encoding human corticotropin releasing hormone (hCRH) in the pregnant woman's plasma or serum blood, wherein the mRNA species are ~~independently selected from mRNA encoding a group of proteins consisting of human chorionic gonadotropin β subunit (hCG β), human placental lactogen (hPL), human corticotropin-releasing hormone (hCRH), KiSS-1 metastasis-suppressor (KISS1), tissue factor pathway inhibitor 2 (TPFI2), placenta-specific 1 (PLAC1), and glyceraldehyde 3-phosphate dehydrogenase (GAPDH); and~~

(ii) comparing the amount of mRNA from step (i) to a standard control representing the amount of hCRH mRNA ~~encoding the same protein or proteins in the blood plasma or serum~~ of an average non-preeclamptic pregnant woman, wherein an increase ~~or a decrease~~ in the amount of mRNA ~~from~~ compared with the standard control indicates preeclampsia or an increased risk of developing preeclampsia.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein step (i) is performed by reverse transcriptase polymerase chain reaction (RT-PCR).

3. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein step (i) is performed by a polynucleotide hybridization method.

4. (Canceled)

5. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the woman is during the first trimester of gestation.

6. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the woman is during the second or third trimester of gestation.

7. (Canceled)

8. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the pregnant woman's ~~blood~~ is plasma is used in step (i).

9. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the pregnant woman's ~~blood~~ is serum is used in step (i).

10. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the increase in the amount of mRNA from the standard control is more than 2-fold.

11-56. (Canceled)